(a) whether it is a fact that forty three members of the US House of Representatives have opposed an extradition treaty with India, as reported in The Pioneer on the 15th February, 1995.

(b) if so, what are their objections; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) 43 Members of the US House of Representatives wrote a letter February 10, 1995 to the US Secretary of State, expressing concern about the absence of an anti-persecution provision in the Extradition Treaty to be signed between India and the US which would protect individuals from persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality or political beliefs.

(c) Most of the outstanding issues in the negotiations on the Extradition Treaty have been resolved. The US Government have not proposed any further modifications to be included in the Extradition Treaty to be signed between India and the US.

Trade relations with South Africa

3569. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South African President, Dr. Nelson Mandela on a visit to India in January, 1995; had expressed his country's desire to enter into business relations with India; and

(b) if so, what follow-up action has been taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Even before President Mandelas visit last January, several business delegations from India had visited South Africa. India mounted an exclusive trade exhibition "INDEXPO-94" Johannesburg in August 1994. Our Minister of Commerce had visited South Africa for its inauguration during which he also signed a Trade Agreement with his South African counterpart. During 1994 our exports to SA have increased to Rs. 360 crores from Rs. 130 crore in 1993 and is already expected to cross Rs. 1000 crores mark during current financial year.

The First meeting of the Indo-South Africa Joint Commission, set up during the Visit of H.E. Dr. Nelson Mandela, is scheduled to be held in Pretoria from 8-9 May, 1995. Ways and means of further enhancing trade and economic relations between the two countries will be considered during this meeting.

Purchase of Hindi books by the M|O External Affairs

3570. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of External Affairs purchase books in Hindi;

(b) if so, what are the norms therefor; and

(c) the details of Hindi books which were purchased by the Ministry during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Madam. Under its scheme of Propagation of Hindi through Indian Missions abroad the Ministry has been making bulk purchase of Hindi books which are sent annually to various Indian Missions abroad for building Standard Hindi Libraries. Books are also sent for donation to local uni-